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Medical Command

REPORTING AND TREATING SPOUSE ABUSE

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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Acts of spouse abuse are incompatible with the high standards of professional and personal discipline required of members of the United States Air Force. This instruction implements AFD 40-3, Family Advocacy Program. It establishes procedures to ensure identification and rehabilitation of suspected and established spouse abuse cases. It establishes the Domestic Conflict Containment Program (DCCP) and requires mandatory participation in this eleven week rehabilitation program. This instruction applies to all military members assigned to Dover AFB. Supervisors and managers of civilian employees will support this program. Civilian employees are encouraged to participate in the program as needed.

1. DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Domestic Violence is defined as one or both spouses pushing, slapping, hitting, kicking, biting, scratching, or initiating any other physical contact which might result in physical injury. Domestic violence should be considered when the history given concerning an injury is at variance with the degree or type of injury, or where circumstances indicate the condition may not be the product of an accident. Emotional and sexual maltreatment are also included.

2. PROCEDURES:

2.1. All agencies, departments, or individuals affiliated with Dover AFB will report all identified incidents of suspected or known spouse abuse directly to the Family Advocacy Officer (FAO), 436 MDG. During non- duty hours, notification will be made through the Acute Care Clinic. (For exceptions to required notification, see para **3.1.** and **3.2.**). The FAO will then notify the member's unit commander whenever the individual is identified other than through their unit.

2.2. Assessment Procedures: Couples involved in domestic violence will be interviewed by the FAO or his/her designee. The frequency and severity of violence will be assessed. If domestic violence has occurred or if the couple gives a history of domestic violence, the unit commander will be notified with the recommendation that the active duty member be ordered to participate in the DCCP. Where

violence or the severity of violence is questionable, a recommendation for program entry will be passed to the unit commander by the Family Advocacy Office. Marital/individual counseling will be offered as needed until the program begins.

2.3. Program Procedures: The DCCP will include one intake session and ten training sessions. Each military member will attend each session. If a couple is identified for the program after the course has started, they will be scheduled for the following class. Courses will begin when six to eight couples are available for training. Commanders will receive a midterm and final evaluation of progress. Air Force members who voluntarily seek help for domestic violence will also be entered into the program. Regular attendance will be required. It should be emphasized that participation in DCCP constitutes the primary mode of intervention.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES:

3.1. Chaplaincy: Chaplains will notify the FAO when they become aware of individuals or families involved in domestic violence as long as notification does not violate confidentiality.

3.2. Command Responsibilities: Each commander is responsible for identifying and reporting cases of known or suspected spouse abuse to the Family Advocacy Officer. Once a member is identified, the commander will direct the individual to attend the DCCP. The commander will also encourage dependent spouses to participate. If, according to evaluation or notification, offending members fail to progress in the rehabilitation program or abuse continues, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken at the discretion of the commander.

3.3. Family Maltreatment Case Management Team: The Family Maltreatment Case Management Team will meet monthly to review domestic incidents and rehabilitation progress. Cases will be reviewed periodically by the committee and will remain open until completion of the DCCP.

3.4. Family Support Center: The Family Support Center will provide supportive services to families and individuals involved in domestic violence. The FAO will be consulted in determining the appropriate involvement of the FSC staff in resolving domestic violence issues. The FSC will assist civilian base employees involved in domestic violence through referral to appropriate providers on a space available basis, the FSC will provide physical facilities as needed for the DCCP.

3.5. Mental Health Clinic: Mental Health Clinic patients involved in domestic violence will be referred to the DCCP.

3.6. Security Police: Security Police will screen the police blotter daily and notify the FAO of all cases involving suspected or known domestic violence.

3.7. Social Actions: Social Actions will notify the FAO of individuals or families involved in domestic violence. In addition, they will provide alcohol rehabilitation as needed to individuals involved in domestic violence.

3.8. Staff Judge Advocates: Staff Judge Advocates will notify the FAO of individuals or families involved in domestic violence as long as notification does not violate confidentiality.

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Commander